

Kongl. Myntet. Stockholm January 15th 1886.

Dear Sir!

It is a generally known fact, that no people are so extremely generous in presenting books as the Americans are. And no one is more able to confirm that than the writer of these lines. I have received so many valuable books from my friends in your admirable country and not least from you, Mr Booth.

With the greatest interest I have read the papers about toughening of gold, about manufacture of plumbago crucibles and your smelting furnace, and I thank you sincerely for them as well as for the highly interesting history of the American Mint, which book I had the pleasure to receive a few days ago. - In the last mentioned book I have read your biography with the greatest interest and see from it that you

still retain your position in the Mint. - I wish you to be able to do so for many years, in spite of your high age, for labour is the very best means to keep up spirits.

I thought I should find your portrait among others in the book, but I didn't.

It was surprising that Mr Burchard has resigned from his place as Director of all the mints. -

Concerning the above mentioned papers of your own, I must tell you that we use almost the same kind of gold-smelting furnace. I put up ^{home} such a furnace as soon as I came ~~up~~ from Philadelphia ten years ago and we are very much satisfied with it for gold-smelting. For smelting silver we still use cast iron pots, but we have a little trouble of recovering the valuable metal from the iron. I should like to try your method, but I doubt yet, that we shall find it suitable for our purpose, because the grains of iron are so few in comparison to the

mass of iron. In fact I tried to do so a few years ago and did not succeed. But I may perhaps not have kept it sufficiently long in the liquid state to allow fully for settling. Another time I will try to get it hotter and keep it longer so.

For getting rid of the brittleness, when gold has a little of that property we generally used chloride of copper, that we in very small portions put into the crucible, when the gold is melted and with good effect. But in the last year I have found that it is sufficient to leave the crucible open, without cover for some minutes, and without any carbon on the melted surface. The air will then make the same, viz. to oxidize the impurities. Is the gold very brittle, your method with salpeter is certainly necessary.

I sent you my report for 1884 some time ago. Of course you have not understood a word of it, as it was

written in our language -

I hope you understood more
the meaning of my sending this
enclosed photograph of our royal
castle. It shall be a ^{small} expression
of my gratitude for your kindness
to remember me so often with
books.

The building is erected during
the last century but nevertheless
it is the finest house in our city.

Please remember me kindly to
Mr Patterson Dubois and tell him
that I hope soon to write to
him.

Very truly

Yours affectionately
Emil Prusewitz

To

Doctor J. C. Booth
U. S. Mint. Phila.